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"AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUDGET SYSTEM LICENSEE"

Weather woes overshadow Fourth of July in US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than a million customers in the storm-hit United States remained without power yesterday, as canceled firework displays and no air-conditioning made for a miserable July 4 holiday for many Americans.

A fierce band of thunder-

storms, packing hurricane force winds, tore across the country on Friday, wreaking havoc from Illinois to Ohio to Kentucky, and causing particularly widespread destruction in and around the capital Washington.

Continued on page 2

Aruba Tourism Authority submits first annual report: *...and gets an 'A'*

The new Aruba Tourism Authority just recently submitted their very first annual report to the Ministry of Tourism. This report is considered historic in that it is the first report since obtaining their new legal status as an independent body...ATA Siu Generes, and that it is presented with the approval of an independent accountant's review, and that it is a report of the first year of operations with all its many changes.

Objective

Aruba Tourism Authority's goal for 2011 was to increase the amount of stay-over visitors by 3%, increase the amount that each visitor spends during their stay on Aruba by 3%, and to increase the amount of cruise visitors to the island by 7%.

Aruba received no less than 871,316 stay-over visitors in 2011, which is the equivalent of an increase of 5% compared to 2010! To date, the Average Daily Expenditure of a tourist on the island for 2011 is still unknown; however, in conformity with the "tourism receipts" published by the Central Bank we can see an increase of 9.3% for the period January to September 2011.

The number of cruise visitors has increased by 5.4% while the objective was to increase this to 7%. The high cruise tourism season which runs from October to May increased by 9.5% in 2010/2011 compared to the same period in 2009/2010.

Public legal decree regarding the institution of ATA

In conformity with the law governing the institution of the Aruba Tourism Authority, it is decreed that every year the CEO of ATA is required to submit to the Minister of Tourism, a general report, a financial report and a report of the work of the supervisory board.

This report is due by the 1st

of April and must be first submitted to the supervisory board for their review. After approval by the supervisory board the report is to be presented to the Minister officially. Before approval from the Minister, the report is sent to Parliament for their information. The final step in the process is for the Minister to issue his formal approval of the annual report of the Aruba Tourism Authority. Today, ATA is proud to announce that they have complied with the legal process and that the annual report has been formally approved by the Minister of Tourism.

The Annual Report

The ATA's report was submitted on schedule, accurately and describing all the accomplishments of the past year.

The general section of the report compiles the accomplishments of each department within ATA, which are, the marketing department, the department for strategy and planning, human resources, and the financial department.

Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes

In accordance with the law, the supervisory board appointed an independent accountant to do an official audit and control of their financial operation. The accounting firm contracted was Ernst & Young Accountants. The supervisory board and the accountant affirmed that the financial report is transparent and that all data are accurately supported and backed up. And, the financial report was formally approved.

Continued on page 3



Where Every One is Welcome

COOL CASINO

US\$ 10.00

FREE promotion ticket

This Voucher will be exchanged
for \$10 promotional
slot ticket at the Host desk
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5 Burgers Aruba
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First copy of College Year Book presented to Minister



Aruba's upper level High school, Colegio Arubano, closed out the 2011-2012 academic year with a special memento for its students. The very first year book of Colegio Arubano has been published and was distributed to all students as a remembrance of the past year. The year book is replete with numerous photos of all students and short accounts of events and activities which transpired during the school year.

One student had the honor of presenting the Minister of Education the first copy of the year book. This presentation took place at the Colegio Arubano campus. Minister Arthur Dowers expressed great pleasure in receiving the book.

He hoped that the book would stimulate other students to join the production team and make this type of production a yearly tradition. The Minister remarked that a year book is a great reminder in the future of what students did during their time at Colegio.

Robert Nieuw, member of the Parents Commission indicated that it is the intention to produce a year book on a yearly basis and how much of a pleasure it was for everyone to have worked on this first publication.

School Director, Mr. Van den Tuijl referred to the year book as simply "fantastic," and everyone, especially the students, consider the publication indeed, fantastic!

Sunday KOFFIE MORGEN

Monday Daily Raffle \$ 500 Earn DOUBLE POINTS

Tuesday Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament

Wednesday Daily Raffle \$ 500 - Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT

Thursday Daily Raffle \$ 500 Earn DOUBLE POINTS

Friday BlackJack Tournament

Saturday KOFFIE MORGEN



Where Every One is Welcome

Management reserves the right to discontinue this promotion at any time

Santa Rosa now has three new trucks to service our agricultural sector



Last Sunday was a great day for Santa Rosa, our agriculture, live-stock and fisheries department, when symbolically three brand new trucks were baptized as part of the celebration of Santa Rosa's Fisherman & Farmers' Day. The presentation of the three trucks took place on the small wharf in Oranjestad.

The 'baptism,' was officiated by the Minister in charge of agriculture, Otmar

Oduber. The baptism itself was rather unique. Maishi (ground corn) was placed in a Calabash bowl which was eventually strewn on the three trucks. They received two new water trucks and one new dump truck. The government decided some months back to expand their fleet of trucks so that they could provide better service to our Aruban farmers. The primary objective is to, through this means, revitalize this im-

portant sector for our local economy.

Interestingly, the Minister asked God to protect those of the Santa Rosa team who will be driving these new trucks for special safety and protection. He also urged the staff and personnel to take good care of the vehicles as they represent a rather large investment of money and is intended to benefit the Aruban community.

Weather woes overshadow...

Continued from page 1

Falling trees snapped power lines and companies struggled to get power back to many families, sweating again in sweltering conditions yesterday as the mercury soared back above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius).

West Virginia, one of nine states impacted by the inclement weather, had the highest number of customers without power at roughly 317,000, according to a release from the US Department of Energy.

Some 20 deaths are attributed to the weather.

Traditional barbecue events

had to be re-arranged as party-goers looked for respite in cooling shelters.

The National Weather Service, meanwhile, warned of large hail and damaging winds in the Great Lakes region, especially in northern Minnesota, potentially throwing a wrench into festivities there.

In Chicago, the sizzling heat could make this year's holiday the hottest in a century.

Elsewhere, in arid areas such as the western state of Colorado where wildfires have been raging, community firework celebrations, an annual draw for young and old alike,

were scrapped to avoid sparking more blazes that have left hundreds homeless.

Despite the dire scenarios faced by many, large scale celebrations were still going forward in cities like New York and Boston.

An annual hotdog-eating competition in New York, for one, saw Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas successfully defend her title after setting a new world record by downing 45 frankfurters.

Thomas' male counterpart, Joey "Jaws" chestnut, crammed 68 hot dogs down his throat, matching his 2009 record.



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This is the weekend for the Andre Ooijer Clinic

This coming weekend is the grand Andre Ooijer Football Clinic to be held at the Frans Figaro Sports Complex. Bringing Dutch Football star to Aruba is explicitly to help our young people to keep moving and to continue being involved in sports. He will be giving two clinics on the island. This is the year for the Andre Ooijer Cup Competition where our children will compete four weeks long. The best teams will then have the honor of playing the final game in the presence of

Andre Ooijer and the Players United coaches. The Ministry of sports, the Aruba Football Bond and LIFIDA will be in charge of this event.

The program for the following days, July 6, 7 and 8 is as follows:

Friday, July 6 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm a special course for all Aruba referees. All our referees are cordially invited to come out and participate in this important training at the Frans Figaro Sports Complex. The course will be given by our Dutch coaches.



Saturday, July 7 the Players United coaches, Andre Ooijer together with all participants are invited to meet at 9:00 am till 5:00 pm at the Frans Figaro Sport Complex. Participation is free and healthy food will be available along with drinks for everyone present. From 3:00 to 5:00 pm the public will have the opportunity to participate in such games as: penalty kick contest, shoot-out into the goal, and much more activities.

Sunday, July 8 will be the second day of Andre Ooijer's free clinic. This will begin at 9:00 am through to 7:00 pm. Everyone, the entire island, is welcome to watch this activity and take pictures with Andre Ooijer. The clinic will finish at 2:30 pm so that everyone can watch the final Andre Ooijer Cup competition.

Again we reiterate that participation at the Football Clinics is completely gratis and will include a healthy lunch for all present. On Sunday all participants will also receive a special gift.

Aruba Tourism Authority submits first annual report

Continued from page 1

Few important accomplishments of 2011 in addition to tourism results

- Timely submission of ATA's 2012 budget and Marketing Plan by September 1st

- Revision and completion of the Organizational Plan, Budget and marketing plan for 2011

- Achieved better return based on additional income as a result of the "Tourism Levy" (room tax). The year ended with an income of 55.6 million Florins compared to 50.6 million that was budgeted for the year.

- Successful transition between ATA and the department of finances of the government. New administrative procedures were put into place, did a financial quick scan, and introduced a new system for monthly reporting.

- Completed a social plan for government employees, labor contracts and the transition of government employees to the new ATA



- ATA became part of the integral process of the production of the strategic plan for Aruba's tourism for the next 15 years.

ATA has expressed gratitude and appreciation for the work of the Minister of Tourism and Labor, for his confidence and perseverance in assisting ATA in the transition period. They are also grateful to the supervisory board, the CEO, CMO, CFO and the entire staff for the important roles they played in the entire process. Special thanks went out to all ATA's partners both in the public as well as the private sectors, local and international for their tremendous support of ATA and for Aruba's tourism.

Film Lab participants walk the Red Carpet



During Aruba's International Film Festival 2012, professional level training was offered to potential Aruba filmmakers with the intensive 96 Hours FilmLab. The 96 Hour Film Lab program hosted 59 students in a wide age range. The results of the students' combined efforts were screened on Thursday afternoon, June 28, the final day of the AIFF. 25 short films were produced, plus an exercise for all facets of production deploying a green screen.

As to be expected, given the short time to produce a film and the limits of location, most stories focused on Aruba, or included distinctive elements of the island and its culture to advance the plot. Many reflected on issues that had obviously been very much on the mind of the filmmaker for some time; concerns for the environment, loss of a loved one, the neglect and mistreatment of dogs and, as there were quite a few teenagers, the anxieties of coming of age.

The results were admirable, some quite original and innovative, particularly considering most were a first-time effort, with the information and skills absorbed within only a few hours. The students also got a chance to walk the Red Carpet after their films were screened.

Photo above is participants Jacob v/d Biezen and Denzel Tromp on the Red Carpet

Joran van der Sloot's Letters ask for forgiveness for murdering Stephany Flores

Joran van der Sloot wants forgiveness for the murder of Stephany Flores and wants people to believe he had nothing to do with the disappearance of Natalee Holloway, according to two lengthy letters released by his attorney.

"I ask God every day that Stephany's parents can find it in their heart to forgive me," van der Sloot wrote.

Van der Sloot, 24, is serving a 28-year prison sentence in Peru's Piedras Gordas prison for the murder of Flores. The business student was found stabbed to death in van der Sloot's Lima hotel room on June 2, 2010.

The Dutchman is also the prime suspect in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway. The 18-year-old from Mountain Brook, Ala., vanished while on a class trip to Aruba in 2005. She was last seen leaving an Oranjestad nightclub with van der Sloot, then a 17-year-old Dutch honors student living in Aruba. Holloway's body has never been found, and van der Sloot has not been charged in her disappearance.

In the letters, which were written in June and released this week by his lawyer Max Altez, van der Sloot said he had "nothing to do with" Holloway's disappearance --



something which could weigh heavily on him once he is released from prison.

Last month, the Peruvian Supreme Court approved the extradition of van der Sloot to the U.S. on charges that he extorted \$25,000 from Holloway's mother. Prosecutors said that in exchange for the money he received in 2010, van der Sloot promised to reveal how Holloway died and the location of her body.

Van der Sloot will be eligible for parole after serving one-third of his murder sentence. He could be extradited in as few as seven years.

Van der Sloot also points the finger at his previous attorney, saying it was "bad legal

advice" that resulted in his 28-year prison sentence, which is currently under appeal.

"My rights have been constantly abused," van der Sloot said. The Dutchman added, "My lawyer promised me I would receive 15 years if I plead guilty, I did."

Van der Sloot said he has a history of psychological problems, "which were never taken into consideration," by his previous defense team.

Altez said van der Sloot wanted the letters released so the public would know he had been misled.

According to The Associated Press, the man who previously represented van der Sloot has denied that he lied to him.

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CLASS STARTS AT // 12:00-1600
LOCATION // ATELIER 89 @ DOMINICANESSEN STRAAT 34**

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Consulado General de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Aruba

**"5 de Julio de 1811"
201º Aniversario de la Independencia de Venezuela**

En 1811 resonaron las voces y se levantaron los brazos. Dos siglos después, aquel brazo largo no se ha rendido ni las voces se han silenciado.

Los objetivos supremos de la Independencia están pendientes: el grito de Hidalgo, la lucha de Artigas, las proclamas de Nariño, el proyecto de Miranda, los planteamientos de Antonio José de Sucre, Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho, en torno a que la libertad sin igualdad está incompleta.

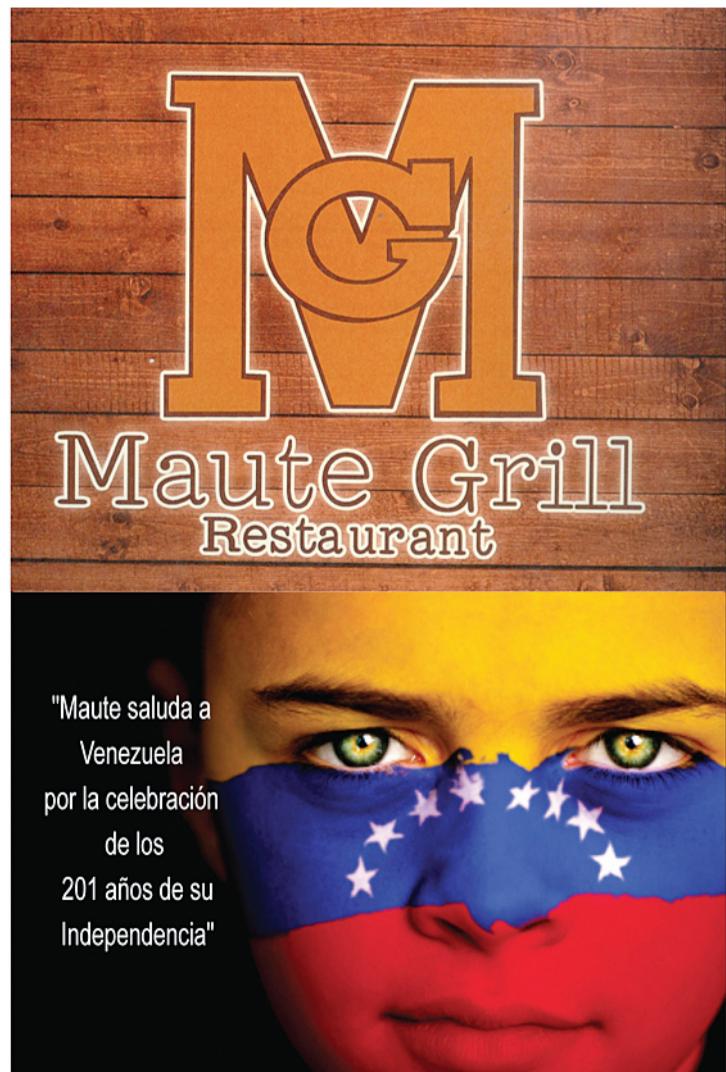
Ahora, esas voces seguirán entonando cantos de libertad e igualdad, y el largo brazo extenderá su fuerza emancipadora. "Independencia, Patria y Soberanía, es el camino que ha emprendido nuevamente Venezuela", decidida a no detener el sueño de nuestro Libertador Simón Bolívar.

**Jesús J. Arias F.
Cónsul General**



Gobierno Bolivariano
de Venezuela

Ministerio del Poder Popular
para Relaciones Exteriores



Clinton sends best wishes to Venezuela on 201 years of independence

WASHINGTON – On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I am delighted to send best wishes to the people of Venezuela as you celebrate 201 years of independence this July 5.

This year, the people of both our countries will be going to the polls to elect their political leaders. Holding free and fair elections is the best way to pay tribute to our founders, and reinforce the ideals of individual liberty and equality that our countries were founded upon.

I wish Venezuelan citizens everywhere health, happiness, and prosperity on this special day. And I hope the friendship between our peoples will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Secretary of State



Channel 36 of Cable TV changes name, broadens programming

SEROE BLANCO – Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., announces to the general public and its Cable TV subscribers in particular that as of July 9, 2012 channel 36 (Liv) will change to "ID-Investigation Discovery" which is an recreational channel focusing on crime and investigation programming.

Favorite programs such as

Hawaii Five-O, Blue Bloods, Dexter and Prison Break will remain on the new channel. Other series included are Scorned: Love Kills and Fatal Encounter - these series are based on real live experiences - and Unusual Suspects and Dark Minds.

ID-Investigation Discovery together with Discovery network is constantly working to

offer televiewers high quality TV packages. For more information on ID-Investigation Discovery readers may visit the website www.investigation.discovery.com

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Gay marriage, adoption allowed in France from 2013: PM



PARIS (AFP) - Gay couples in France will be allowed to get married and to adopt children from next year, Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault announced Tuesday.

"In the first half of 2013, the right to marriage and adoption will be open to all couples, without discrimination," he told parliament, confirming an

election promise by Socialist President Francois Hollande.

"Our society is evolving, lifestyles and mentalities are changing," he said in a speech outlining the new Socialist government's agenda. "The government will respond to that."

The confirmation came just days after Paris held its annual

Gay Pride parade, which this year was buoyed by the promise of the new government to legalise gay marriage and adoption rights.

Symbolically, French Minister for Families Dominique Bertinotti turned out to see the parade floats set off.

A recent survey by pollster IFOP said that gays in France make up 6.5 percent of the electorate, compared with practising Catholics at 4.5 percent.

A number of European nations allow gay marriage, but not France, where only married couples and not civil union partners can adopt.

European nations including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Britain allow gay adoption.

Explosion at Kabul gas reservoir kills two



KABUL (AFP) - A huge explosion at a liquid gas reservoir in Kabul triggered a huge fire on Wednesday, killing at least two people and injuring up to 62 others, an health official said.

Many of the victims were taken to hospital with severe burns and twenty of them were in a serious condition he added, warning that the death toll could rise.

Thick black smoke and flames could be seen rising from a warehouse on the site on Kabul Jalalabad road as dozens of fire fighters tried to put out the flames and ambu-

lances evacuated the wounded.

It was not immediately clear what had caused the deadly explosion but Afghan interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said initial investigations had ruled out the possibility of any terrorist involvement.

A western security source told AFP that an electrical fault may have been the cause.

It was the second incident of its kind over the past two days in Kabul. On Tuesday a market caught fire, leaving three people dead and 28 others injured.

Hostage-taker kills four in German apartment siege

KARLSRUHE (AFP) - A jobless man armed with guns and grenades shot dead four hostages and then himself Wednesday in a four-hour siege at a German apartment he was being evicted from, police said.

Police stormed the apartment in the southwestern city of Karlsruhe when they smelled burning several hours after the drama began, and found five bodies including that of the 53-year-old hostage-taker.

Prosecutors said the victims, who included a bailiff, a locksmith, the new flat owner as well as the female partner of the gunman, who previously owned the flat, were "basically executed".

Police said the man, described as unemployed with no record of violence, was armed with two pistols, two other

guns, ammunition and hand grenades when he barricaded himself in the flat with his hostages.

Police chief Hildegard Gerecke told the news conference that security forces had faced a "very difficult, highly complex" situation.

The new owner ordered the couple to be evicted, prompting the bailiff, the locksmith and a social worker who planned to advise the pair on their options to go to the home early Wednesday.

After letting them inside, the man produced a weapon and ordered the locksmith to tie up the other victims. The hostage-taker, who was not named, shot the locksmith several times when he tried to snatch a gun away.

The gunman shot the bailiff in the leg, and released the social worker who then con-

tacted police. They tried in vain to make telephone contact with the hostage-taker.

Police stormed the three-room apartment about four hours after the drama began, initially finding four bodies including the hostage-taker before also discovering the body of his partner in bed.

About 200 police officers were sent to the scene including about 40 members of elite units, and the area was sealed off.

Two schools and kindergartens located nearby and several apartment blocks were evacuated, according to the local daily Badische Zeitung.

The four victims ranged in age from 33 to 55 years.

It was still unclear how the man obtained the weapons.

Several evictions in Germany have ended violently in recent years.



MONACO (AFP) - Princess Caroline of Monaco on Wednesday announced the impending marriage of her eldest son Andrea Casiraghi to Tatiana Santo Domingo, a half-Brazilian, half-Colombian heiress. Casiraghi and his would-be wife are both 28 and know each other for seven years. He is the eldest child of Princess Caroline from her second husband, an Italian named Stefano Casiraghi, who died in an powerboat accident off Monaco's shores in 1990. The bride hails from one of Colombia's wealthiest families, whose staggering \$6bn fortune was amassed by her grandfather, the late magnate Julio Mario Santo Domingo.

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pilot error, malfunctions behind Air France crash

PARIS (AFP) - A French report has found that human error and technical malfunctions caused the 2009 crash of an Air France flight from Rio to Paris that killed 228 people, a source close to the case said yesterday.

The judicial report -- due to be presented to victims' families on Tuesday next week -- has concluded that pilot error and malfunctioning speed sensors were responsible, the source told AFP.

The French aviation safety authority BEA is due to present its final report today on the crash. The paper is eagerly awaited amid a row between Airbus and Air France on who ultimately bears responsibility.

The source said the separate 356-page judicial report found that speed sensors froze up and failed, but also that the "cap-

tain had failed in his duties" and "prevented the co-pilot from reacting".

The aircraft had entered a zone of turbulence two hours into the flight when the autopilot suddenly disengaged, the BEA had said earlier.

French magistrates are investigating Air France and Airbus for alleged manslaughter in connection with the crash, notably because of the malfunctioning speed sensors, known as Pitots.

The airline replaced the Pitots, manufactured by French company Thales, on its Airbus planes with a newer model after the crash.

Victims' families have previously alleged that the involvement of big French corporations such as Airbus and Air France was influencing the affair.

Obama pushes immigration on independence day

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama saluted 25 newly-minted US citizens yesterday in an independence day pitch for immigration reform four months before he faces re-election.

"Immigration makes us more prosperous," Obama told the active duty service members originally from 17 countries -- including Bolivia, El Salvador, Nigeria and the Ukraine -- during a ceremony at the White House. "And immigration positions America to lead in the 21st century."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano had administered the oath of allegiance to the group in the East Room as guests looked on.

In a historic development last month, five months before

he faces re-election, Obama suspended the deportations of young illegal immigrants under 30 who came to the United States before the age of 16.

The plan was largely welcomed by the Latino community and analysts say it could boost Obama's chances for re-election on November 6.

In his comments yesterday, Obama referenced his administration's recent move and called for more steps to be taken, saying "the story of immigrants in America isn't a story of 'them,' it's a story of 'us.'"

"For just as we remain a nation of laws, we have to remain a nation of immigrants," Obama said. "It's why we need -- why America's success demands -- comprehensive immigration reform."

Vote 'buying' charges hang over Mexican poll result



ACAPULCO : A Mexican marine stands guard inside the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) building during the counting of votes of the past presidential election on July 4, in Acapulco, Guerrero state, Mexico. Mexico's electoral authorities yesterday kicked off the official count of the voting records of presidential elections on Sunday, which according to a preliminary count, the PRI won, a result that rejects the leftist coalition Progressive Movement of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Lopez Obrador, who leads a leftist coalition, has demanded a recount and alleged massive fraud, accusing Pena Nieto's center-right Institutional Revolutionary Party of distributing 1.8 million gift cards to buy votes. A new round of clearer results were due to be announced later yesterday, with a final official tally expected by Sunday. (AFP PHOTO)

15th Syrian general defects to Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) - A Syrian general and a number of soldiers defected and crossed into Turkey yesterday, the 15th such high-ranking officer to flee the conflict-wracked nation, a Turkish diplomat said.

A total of 66 people fled into Turkey from Syria yesterday, including the general and two colonels as well as soldiers and their families, the diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity.

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Health & Living

Hundreds of paedophiles identified in global sweep: Austria

VIENNA (AFP) - Hundreds of paedophiles prowling on the Internet have been identified in an operation in 141 countries, Austrian federal police said Wednesday.

In Austria alone, operation "Carole" found 272 suspects, making it the biggest ever police sweep against child pornography in the small alpine country, police said.

The investigations, which lasted almost a year, began in Luxembourg when the operator of a root server based there reported two websites containing large quantities of child pornography to the authorities.

The websites' files, indicating a worldwide clientele, were seized by police and passed on to investigators in 141 countries, Austrian police

said, without elaborating on the countries or the number of people involved.

The 272 Austrian suspects, all male and aged 17 to 70, came from all types of background and professions, including teachers and kindergarten staff.

All of them were found in possession of paedophile images or videos.

The vast majority were consumers, but in two cases, actual abuse of children could be proven, police said.

Searches at the suspects' homes turned up vast amounts of material, which were currently being examined.

In March 2011, an Europol sweep identified 670 suspects and made 184 arrests in what was then the biggest case of its kind.

Methadone linked to 30 percent of painkiller overdoses



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The prescription drug methadone is linked to over 30 percent of painkiller overdose deaths, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Tuesday.

"Death from opioid overdose have increased four-fold in the past decade, and methadone now accounts for nearly a third of opioid-associated deaths," said CDC Director Thomas Frieden.

Still, the drug accounted for some two percent of total painkiller prescriptions in the US in 2009.

Researchers assessed national data from 1999 to 2010 as well as data for 2009 from

13 states covered by a drug-related death surveillance network. Six times as many people died of methadone overdose in 2009 than in 1999.

Methadone has been used as a successful treatment for drug addiction for several decades. In recent years, more doctors have prescribed the drug as a painkiller.

Risks associated with methadone are greater than other painkillers, because the drug often builds up in the patient's system and may disrupt breathing and heart rhythm.

Methadone used as a heroin substitution treatment did not appear to be a part of rise in overdose deaths, the CDC reported.



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*To properly eat the Aloe vera, you need to cut it up a bit. Take about a half inch to an inch worth of the Aloe vera leaf, and chop it up until you reach the translucent part of the

plant. So take away all of the darker green skin that you see, until only the translucent piece remains. Chop it in little pieces and set in a glass jar with some honing, eat a tablespoon of this mix every morning for 2 weeks. Or if you prefer as drinks-

*Nutritionalists, around the world, recommend the use of Aloe Health Drinks to aid digestion, and many patients experience relief in the symptoms of problems such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Crohn's disease.

*Aloe vera is full of anti-oxidants – natural immune enhancers which fight free radicals within our body. Drinking aloe vera juice regularly gives the body a regular supply of anti-oxidants, which can boost and enhance the immune system.

*Aloe vera juice improves joint flexibility and comes filled with mucopolysaccharides — the amino sugars

needed for the regeneration of body cells. Also works as Pain reliever and reduces inflammation sore joints and muscles.

*Aloe is used in many skin/hair care products because of its ability to stimulate healthy cell growth and repair damaged tissues.

*Aloe vera is used for treating various skin conditions such as eczema, burns, psoriasis, inflammations, wounds etc. It destroys bacteria that try to invade cuts or open wounds. It relieves heat on the skin caused by sunburn.

*Aloe is very good for dental health as well. Acting as an anti-inflammatory due to the presence of anthraquinones, aloe can reduce the swelling and redness of gingivitis and other mild forms of gum disease.

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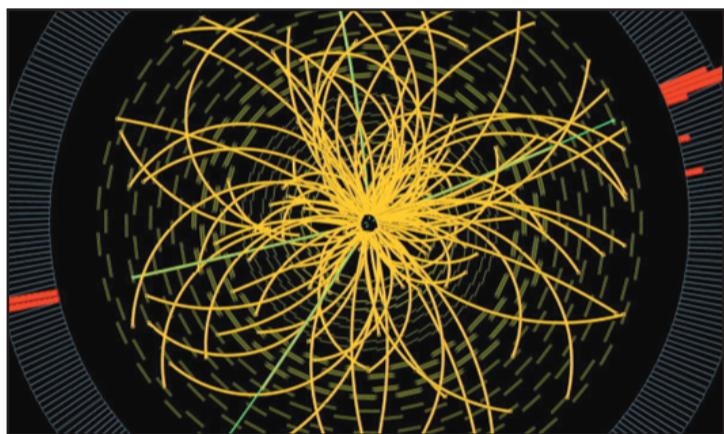
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Sci-Tech

Higgs-like particle found in 'milestone' for mankind



GENEVA (AFP) - After a quest spanning nearly half a century, physicists said Wednesday they had found a sub-atomic particle that may be the elusive Higgs boson, believed to confer mass on

matter.

Rousing cheers and a standing ovation erupted at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) after scientists presented astonishing new data in their

search for the mysterious particle.

Many hailed it as a moment in history, and white-haired veterans of the quest shed tears of joy.

"We have reached a milestone in our understanding of nature," said CERN Director General Rolf Heuer.

He and others cautioned, though, that further work was needed to identify what exactly had been found.

"As a layman I would say we have it, but as a scientist I have to say, 'what do we have?'" Heuer told a press conference.

"We have discovered a boson, and now we have to de-

termine what kind of boson it is."

Finding the Higgs would validate the Standard Model, a theory which identifies the building blocks for matter and the particles that convey fundamental forces.

Peter Higgs, the shy, soft-spoken Briton who in 1964 published the conceptual groundwork for the particle and whose name became associated with it, expressed delight.

"I never expected this to happen in my lifetime and shall be asking my family to put some champagne in the fridge," the 83-year-old said in a statement.

Higgs sat next to Belgian physicist Francois Englert, 79, who separately contributed to the theory.

"I just want to say that my thoughts go to Robert Brout," said Englert, his eyes moist with tears, as he lauded a fellow pioneer who died in 2011.

The Standard Model is a hugely successful theory but has several gaps, the biggest of which is why some particles have mass but others do not.

Mooted by Higgs and several others, the boson is believed to exist in a treacly, invisible, ubiquitous field created by the Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago.

When some particles encounter the Higgs, they slow down and acquire mass, according to the theory. Others, such as particles of light, encounter no obstacle.

CERN uses a giant underground laboratory where protons are smashed together at nearly the speed of light, yielding sub-atomic debris that is then scrutinised for signs of the fleeting Higgs.

The task is arduous because there are trillions of signals, occurring among particles at different ranges of mass. The Higgs has been dubbed the

"God particle" because it is powerful and everywhere, yet so hard to find.

Over the years, tens of thousands of physicists and billions of dollars have been thrown into the search, gradually narrowing down the mass range where it might exist.

Two CERN laboratories, working independently of each other to avoid bias, found the new particle in the mass region of around 125-126 Gigaelectronvolts (GeV), according to data they presented on Wednesday.

Both said that the results were "five sigma," meaning there was just a 0.00006 percent chance that what the two laboratories found is a mathematical quirk.

At a particle-physics conference in Melbourne, Australia, a participant said there was a "jaw-dropping" moment when the scientists reacted to the announcement.

History was then feted with beer and champagne.

Scientists began to pore over what the find could mean.

"This is an important result and should earn Peter Higgs the Nobel Prize, but it is a pity in a way, because the great advances in physics have come from experiments that gave results we didn't expect," said cosmologist Stephen Hawking in an interview with the BBC.

"For this reason I had a bet with Gordon Kane of Michigan University that the Higgs particle wouldn't be found. It seems I have just lost \$100."

CERN physicist Yves Sirois said that the result did seem to back the Standard Model but further surprises could be in store.

"It may be the Higgs boson, but it may also be something far bigger, which opens the door towards a new theory that goes beyond the Standard Model."

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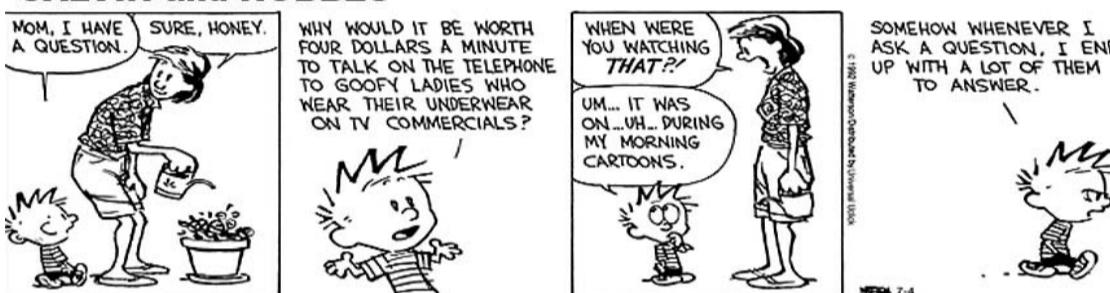
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



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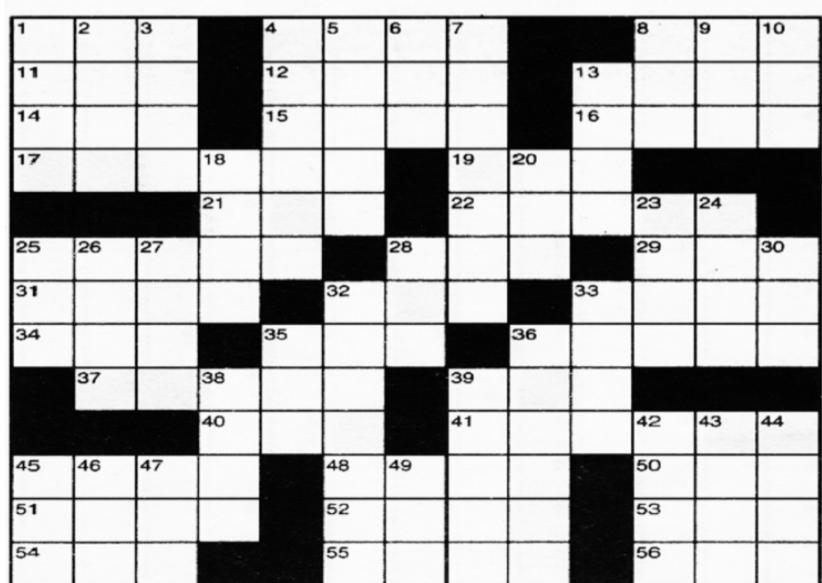
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ACROSS

- Refrain word
- Walked heavily
- Clog
- Batter's hope
- Main beneficiary
- "Lovely ___" (Beatles)
- Troop entertainment org.
- Singer Fitzgerald
- "___ Ordinary Man" (2 wds.)
- Dethrone
- To's pal
- Major engineering school (abbr.)
- Indian emblem
- Bancroft and Baxter
- Sleep stage (abbr.)
- Achieved
- Weather forecast
- "The Bells" poet
- Actress Theda
- Relatives
- Purring creature
- Carrying weapons
- Tilts
- Wide rdwy.
- Those holding power
- Morsel
- Actor Neeson



- College composition
- Sublease
- Dressing ingredient
- One who is inducted
- Poorly lit
- ___ moment's notice (2 wds.)
- Chap
- Tumult
- Future sign
- CD-
- Cheese from Holland
- Muck
- Noah's ship
- Carpenter's need
- Innings count, usually
- Decompose
- Dear old ___
- Section of a speech
- Raised dogs
- Wolf Blitzer's channel
- Fly
- Points (at)
- Muscleman Charles
- Veggie burger brand
- Part of, as a plot (2 wds.)
- Cooking measures (abbr.)
- Great amount
- Novelist Fleming
- Fore and ___
- Reaction to an IM joke

- Up above
- Book-dropping sound
- "___ and shine!"
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- 16
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SOLUTION

5	1	3	8	4	9	6	7	2
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7	2	6	1	3	5	4	8	9
1	8	2	7	9	4	3	5	6
9	7	9	5	1	3	8	2	4
4	3	5	6	8	1	3	5	
2	4	7	9	5	1	2	7	9
3	5	1	4	2	7	9	6	8
9	6	8	3	5	1	2	4	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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Finance

Germany halves 2012 deficit forecast

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany yesterday halved its forecast for the public deficit this year owing to the resilience of Europe's top economy to the eurozone debt crisis so far.

"Thanks to the favourable overall economic development, and the good situation on the labour market in particular, the estimate for this year's deficit has improved from 1.0 percent to a good half-percent" of gross domestic product, the finance ministry said in a statement.

"That means Germany will meet as early as this year its medium-term target of achieving a structural budget that is close to balance," the ministry said.

The public deficit comprises the budgets of the regional states, the municipal authorities and social welfare, and under EU rules, eurozone countries are not allowed to run up deficit ratios in excess of 3.0 percent.

But with unemployment in Germany at record lows, the social welfare budget is expected to post a large surplus this year and the municipal authorities are also likely to see their surplus widen, the ministry said.

Indeed, the finances of the federal government, the re-

gional states and the municipal authorities were expected to continue to improve in the next few years "so that a balanced public budget will be achieved from 2014," the statement said.

At the same time, Germany's share of the bill of the European stability measures are likely to push the country's overall debt up to 83.5 percent of GDP this year from 81.2 percent last year.

Nevertheless, the consolidation effects will help bring down the overall debt ratio in subsequent years, the ministry added.

Monti, Merkel clear the air over eurozone bond deal

ROME (AFP) - Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and German Chancellor Angela Merkel cleared the air yesterday, saying they would stick to a contested bond deal to help troubled euro economies like Italy and Spain.

"We found a solution that satisfies everyone," Merkel said in reference to the agreement struck by eurozone leaders at a summit last week to allow the European Stability Mechanism to help member states more easily.

"For me, the important thing was that the European Council took decisions based on the rules already in force," she said.

The talks in Rome came

amid criticism of Merkel in Germany for agreeing to the proposal pushed by Italy and Spain at the summit and doubts about Berlin's commitment to the deal had unnerved investors on the markets.

Monti said: "I am satisfied and I think all the 17 members of the eurozone are satisfied because we adopted these decisions unanimously."

The Italian prime minister also stressed that Italy would not be making use of the new mechanism because it could still borrow on the debt markets but wanted it to be put in place to ease wider fears about the eurozone.

"Italy is not making a request to use the existing mechanisms since luckily it is not in the same situation as Greece, Ireland and Portugal," he said. "We need to avoid a situation in which high borrowing costs discourage countries from pursuing the economic policies they have begun."

Finland has voiced concern about using the future European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to buy bonds to ease stiff borrowing costs that have dogged vulnerable eurozone economies, saying the Netherlands held the same position.

Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager yesterday specified that he was in principle not against that accord but that the deal should be looked at critically.

"We are reluctant but unlike Finland we are not opposed to every single case. That you can't do," the Dutch news agency ANP quoted de Jager as saying.

Monti went on to say that

Italy and Germany were also committed to stronger political union -- a key demand from Merkel in return for bailout assistance.

"I believe our two countries are among the most ready to go towards a sharing of sovereignty on the EU level if this means more effective political and economic policy instruments," Monti said after the meeting.

Merkel said: "We have decided to confront problems together. If our neighbours in Europe do not do well then we Germans cannot do well. It is in our interests that all the other countries have positive economic development".

There was no mention at the summit of a proposal for pooling eurozone debt in the form of eurobonds, which Germany is opposed to.

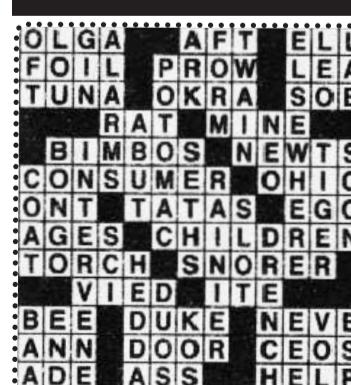
"A mutualisation of debt in Europe would be a fundamental construction error which would put the European idea at risk," German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said.

Monti also warned meanwhile that Italy's public deficit would be a worse than expected 2.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year instead of a previous forecast of 1.3 percent.

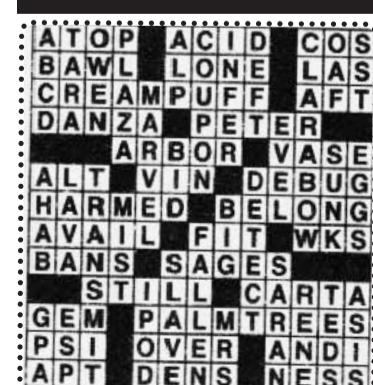
The official data agency Istat said deficit numbers were up because of increased debt interest spending due to higher rates on the debt markets and because of lower tax revenues due to the recession.

Italy's economy entered recession in the second half of last year and the government is forecasting a contraction of 1.2 percent this year.

WEDNESDAY'S Crossword Answer



YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 07/04/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.74	1.76	1.78
Britain	GBP	2.72	2.77	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	186.03	186.75	187.55
Netherlands	EUR	221.68	223.70	225.95
Sweden	SEK	24.76	25.48	26.28
Denmark	DKK	29.11	29.83	30.63
Norway	NOK	28.79	29.51	30.31
Japan (per 10,000)	JPY	221.06	223.08	225.32
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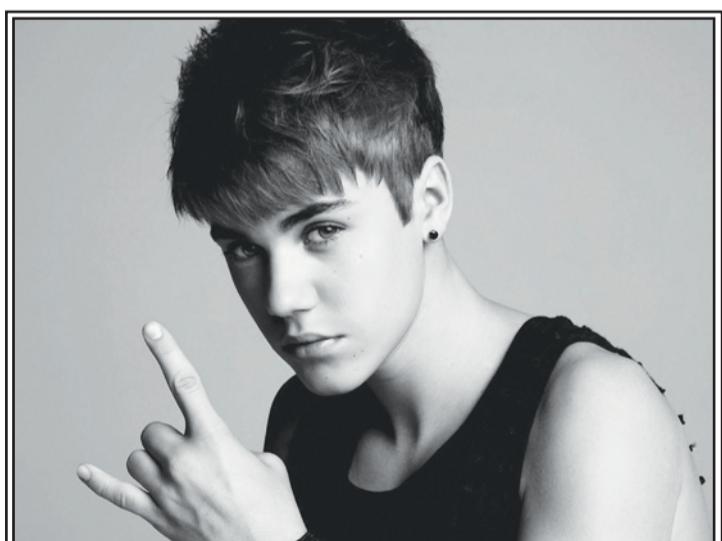
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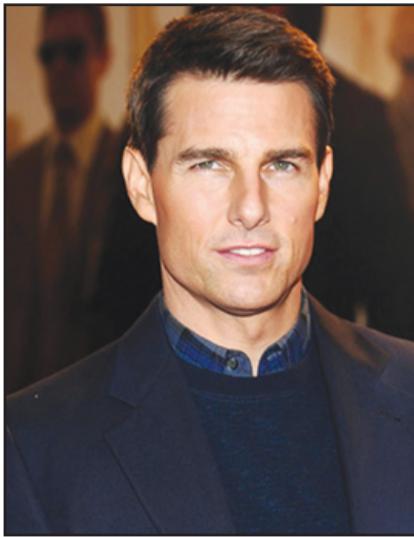
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MONTREAL (AFP) - Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber has earned a diploma from a Catholic secondary school in his native Ontario, Canada, but did not attend the graduation ceremony, the head of the school told AFP. Bieber shot to fame in 2009 after posting several homemade music videos on YouTube, and in March 2011 set the record for the most views on the video-sharing site with his music video "Baby." As of Tuesday, the video had more than 750 million views.

Mission Impossible? Tom Cruise under fire at 50



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Tom Cruise was named the highest paid actor in Hollywood on Tuesday, on his 50th birthday -- but the "Mission Impossible" star has little to celebrate.

Days after his wife filed for divorce, apparently taking him by surprise, questions are stacking up about the role of his controversial Scientologist faith at the end of his five-year marriage to Katie Holmes.

The "Top Gun" actor -- who has been in Iceland shooting his latest movie ahead of the landmark birthday, according to reports -- has remained tightlipped since his wife's bombshell announcement last week.

Their fairytale love affair had started so well. Cruise famously jumped up and down on Oprah Winfrey's couch professing his love for Holmes during a whirlwind courtship that culminated in a proposal under the Eiffel Tower.

But the divorce will be the third for Cruise, following his marriage to US actress Mimi Rogers from 1987-1990 and Australian Nicole Kidman from 1990-2001. He also had a three-year relationship with Spanish star Penelope Cruz.

Critics might suggest that, for all his blockbuster achievements on the big screen over the three decades, Cruise has

been less successful in his personal life.

And he now faces a court battle royale for custody of the couple's six-year-old daughter Suri, after reports that Holmes is seeking sole custody because she fears Cruise wants to draw the child deeper into Scientology.

In the 26 years since he made his name in the first "Top Gun" movie in 1986, Cruise has established himself as one of the most powerful and bankable players in Hollywood.

That was confirmed again Tuesday when the latest Forbes list of Hollywood's highest-paid actors put Cruise firmly at the top, with earnings of \$75 million between May 2011 and May 2012.

Amid all the bad news, Cruise had at least one supporter on Tuesday: Paramount came out swinging for him, as a trailer for his next movie "Jack Reacher" -- due out in December -- was launched in theaters.

Island artist Waldy Simson realizes a dream



The 3rd installment of the Aruba International Film Festival included inauguration of a new aspect to the annual event: The AIFF Concert Series. Spectacular concerts were conducted at a newly formed arena in Oranjestad Harbor by Marc Anthony and Juanes,

however, one of the most successful aspects of the concert series were the on man shows at Aruba's Cas di Cultura by

comedian and late-night TV host in Holland, Jörgen Raymann. He is an idol for those from his homeland of Suriname as well as a superstar in Holland and throughout its Dutch-speaking territories.

Raymann's Monday concert, on June 25, was sold out to a very appreciative audience, among them, island artist Waldy Simson. Known for his silhouette portraits created by sculpting black and white paper, he created one of Jörgen Raymann and was thrilled to be able to present it to him personally, following the comedian's performance.

Simson will next year will host a solo exhibition in Raymann's native country, Suriname, and after that will participate in the Caribbean Festival for The Arts, Carifesta 2013.



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Protean cocaine trade shifts from Colombia to Peru

BOGOTA (AFP) - The shape-shifting cocaine trade has survived a decade-long crackdown in Colombia to reemerge in Peru, which is expected to take over as top producer in an industry worth some \$100 billion worldwide.

"In fact, everything that has been reduced in Colombia has ended up in Peru and Bolivia," Colombian analyst Daniel Mejia, who leads the Center on Security and Drugs at the Universidad de los Andes, told AFP. "The (coca processing) labs have moved to Ecuador and Venezuela, and the trafficking to Central America and Mexico," he said.

The area of land on which coca leaves are grown has remained fairly stable in recent years, with experts putting it at around 1,500 square kilometers (579 square miles) across the Andes.

In 2010, Colombia and Peru were nearly tied in area of coca cultivation -- (62,000 hectares in Colombia compared to 61,200 in Peru) and processed cocaine output (350 tons a year in Colombia versus 320 in Peru).

But many experts expect Peru to emerge on top in both categories in 2012.

The 2012 UN report on drugs released June 26 did not have the latest data to confirm Peru's dubious distinction but highlighted Colombia's "very significant reduction in cocaine

processing" since 2006, when yearly output was 660 tons.

Cocaine production and retailing have changed dramatically since the early 1990s, when infamous Colombian cartels dominated the American drug trade, with a lock on everything from coca planting to retail sales on US streets.

The Colombian cartels started out just trafficking cocaine, mainly from Peru but also Bolivia. Their trade exploded, however, with the imposition of a no-fly zone in neighboring Peru by then-president Alberto Fujimori.

Peruvian armed forces shot down suspected drug planes up until 2001, when they accidentally downed a small plane carrying US missionaries.

The violence unleashed by drug traffickers in Colombia meanwhile came to be seen as a threat to national security, as thousands of Colombians were killed in turf battles and the country developed a reputation for kidnappings.

In Peru, meanwhile, coca growing has become increasingly profitable in areas such as the Apurimac and Ene River Valley (VRAE), where efforts at crop substitution have largely failed.

While coca leaves are chewed for medicinal reasons in the Andes, there is no denying where most of Peru's coca is heading.

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SPORTS

Olympics Twin Olympic joy for double amputee Pistorius



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - South African double amputee athlete Oscar Pistorius had twin cause for joy Wednesday after being told he could run in the 400 metres and the 4x400m relay at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Confirmation that he would become the first amputee to compete at the Games came with his inclusion in the relay team, and a few hours later the national Olympic committee did a u-turn and agreed to him also running in the individual event.

Athletics South Africa (ASA) convinced Olympic body SASROC that Pistorius should compete in the 400m despite bettering the 45.30-second qualifying time only once instead of twice as demanded.

SASROC chief executive Tubby Reddy told AFP his body

"did not have a problem with that" and a day to remember for 25-year-old Johannesburg-born Pistorius was complete.

His selections come five days after conceding defeat in a battle to run in the 400m as he finished 0.22 of a second outside the qualifying mark of 45.30 seconds when finishing second at the African championships in Benin.

Pistorius did clock 45.20 at a meet in Pretoria last March, but could not repeat the feat at an international meet, a requirement for selection in the South African team.

But his sadness turned to joy as South Africa finalised the squad for London by choosing a relay team including Pistorius, Willem de Beer, Ofentse Mogawane and Shaun de Jager.

South African Olympic chief Gideon Sam congratulated Pis-

torius, the rest of the relay team and nine other athletes added to the 112 named last month as the country seeks to improve on a dismal one-medal show at the 2008 Beijing Games.

"It has taken four years, but now we can concentrate on doing our best at the Games. The preparation has been done and now it is up to our athletes to take over in London and show us what they are made of."

Called the 'Blade Runner' and 'The Fastest Man on no legs', Pistorius was part of the South African 4x400m relay squad that came second at the 2011 world championships in South Korea although he did not run in the final.

There had been fears that South Africa would not send a relay team as no athlete qualified for the 400m and the world championship silver medal-winning team has been hit by poor form and injuries.

Pistorius runs with carbon-fibre artificial 'blades' and was cleared to compete at top level in 2008 when the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) overturned an IAAF ruling that his blades gave him an unfair advantage.

The South African had both legs amputated below the knee before turning one-year-old because of a congenital condition that meant he was born without lower leg bones.

Cycling: Rasmussen gets 18 month drugs ban



PARIS (AFP) - Denmark's four-time track cycling world champion Alex Rasmussen was on Wednesday handed an 18 month ban for missing two out-of-competition doping controls.

The punishment was announced in a statement by the Court of Arbitration for Sport

and failed to give sufficient details about his whereabouts for a third control.

CAS upheld the UCI's appeal, maintaining that its procedural error relating to a delay in communication had no bearing on the fact that the 28-year-old rider had missed a control.

Rasmussen won four world

titles before turning professional and joining the Saxo Bank team.

He switched to HTC-Colombia in 2011 but was sacked by them after missing one of the tests.

Rasmussen joined the Garmin outfit last August and competed in this year's Tour of Italy.



Team Sky rider Mark Cavendish of Britain sits on the ground after a fall during the fourth stage of the 99th Tour de France cycling race between Abbeville and Rouen, July 4th, 2012.

The UCI had called for the cyclist to receive a two-year ban after he had missed two tests

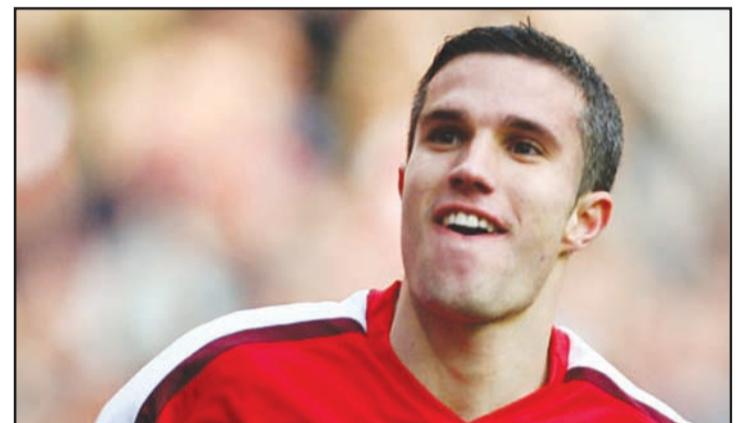


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Football: Van Persie turns down new Arsenal deal



LONDON (AFP) - Robin van Persie has rejected the offer of a new Arsenal contract, the striker announced via his official website on Wednesday.

The Dutch international has a year left on his current deal with the English Premier League club, who could now be tempted to cash in on their prize asset, rather than see him leave for nothing on a Bosman free transfer at the end of next season.

Premier League champions Manchester City and Italian title-holders Juventus are among the clubs to have been repeatedly linked with signing the Dutchman.

Van Persie added he had met with Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and chief executive Ivan Gazidis at the end of last season to discuss his future but had been disappointed by the answers he'd received regarding the Gunners' ambitions.

Since signing from Dutch side Feyenoord in 2004, Van Persie has won just one major trophy with Arsenal -- the 2005 FA Cup.

It is a poor return for a player of his talent and he said it was a desire to win silverware that was behind his decision to leave the Emirates Stadium.

This is an update for the fans about my current situation," Van Persie said.

"I have kept quiet all this time out of respect and loyalty for the club and as agreed with Mr Gazidis and Mr Wenger, but since there is so much speculation in the media, I

think it is fair for you guys to know what's really going on at the moment.

"Out of my huge respect for Mr Wenger, the players and the fans I don't want to go into any details, but unfortunately in this meeting it has again become clear to me that we in many aspects disagree on the way Arsenal should move forward."

He added: "I love the club and the fans, no matter what happens. I have grown up and became a man during my time with Arsenal FC...I am very proud of being part of this fantastic club for the last eight years."

As for his next move, van Persie added: "As soon as Mr Gazidis is back from his two-week holiday in America further meetings will follow and I will update you if and when there are more developments."

Arsenal responded to van Persie's announcement with a statement of their own in which they said they hoped he would see out his contract.

But former Gunners midfielder Ray Parlour urged Arsenal to cash-in on van Persie, saying: "There is talk he could get £25million to £30million. If that is the case it has to be invested straight back into the club."

Other players have left Arsenal in recent seasons to bolster their hopes of landing major medals, notably Spain's World Cup and Euro 2012-winning midfielder Cesc Fabregas, who joined Barcelona in August last year and two days later won the Spanish Super Cup.

Golf: Tseng tries to complete career Slam at US Open

KOHLER (AFP) - World No. 1 Yani Tseng of Taiwan will try to complete a women's golf career Grand Slam this week by capturing the US Women's Open, which starts today at Blackwolf Run.

The 23-year-old LPGA star could literally do one better than golf legend Tiger Woods, who did not complete a career Slam until age 24. Tseng owns five major titles, the most recent won at age 22 at the 2011 Women's British Open.

"It's hard to not think about, because everybody is talking about it," said Tseng. "But like I say, I'm not worried about what is my result this week, because (I'm) just going to have fun."

Australian star Karrie Webb is the youngest woman to complete the career Grand Slam, having done so at age 26 by capturing the 2001 LPGA Championship.

Tseng admits to feeling nervous and under pressure as she prepares for the 6,944-yard par-72 layout, in part because the first tournament she ever saw was the US Women's Open when she was 13 and saw Juli Inkster win in 2002.

"Every year when I come to the US Open I always feel more nerves and more pres-



sure," Tseng said. "When I was 13 my dream was playing the US Open. Now I'm trying to think to win the US Open. It's a very big step for me to think this way."

"I've been learning many years. It's getting better. I feel really good. I feel like I'm going to have lots of fun."

Tseng's best US Women's Open finish was a share of 10th in 2010 at Oakmont.

Tseng won three times in her first eight events of the year, never finishing out of the top 10. But she has finished 59th and missed the cut in her past two events and admits to still having bouts of uncertainty on the tee.

"Sometimes when I start on tee I still worry about if my

ball is going to hit right or left," she said. "But I feel good this week."

Inkster, among Tseng's rivals this week, expects the Asian star to be among the contenders this week as well.

"She's a great player," Inkster said. "Her bad game is still probably 90 percent better than most of the girls out here. So she's going to be just fine. She's got to just go out there and relax and play her game."

Tseng will try to keep her emotions in check this week as the tension builds.

"I've just got to be very patient and try not to think about it much," Tseng said. "I'm very excited. Being patient is the most important thing to play in a major."

NBA: All-Star guard Williams stays with Nets



NEW YORK (AFP) - Deron Williams has announced plans to stay with the NBA's Brooklyn Nets and that could help the team obtain star center Dwight Howard, who wants to leave the Orlando Magic.

Williams posted a message on his Twitter account "Made a very tough decision today..." along with a link to the Nets logo, indicating he would remain with the club that has moved across the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York.

The 28-year-old All-Star point guard led the Nets last season with 21 points and 8.8

assists in 55 games. He turned down overtures from Dallas but made a deal for a reported \$98 million over five years to stay with the Nets.

Free agent contracts cannot be announced by NBA clubs until July 11 under league rules, but the Nets have reportedly been busy, also bringing in All-Star guard Joe Johnson in a trade with Atlanta and keeping Gerald Wallace.

The Nets have not reached the NBA playoffs since 2007 but under their new owner, Russian businessman Mikhail Prokhorov, they have changed colors and logo and moved into a new arena set to open later this year.

A major part of turning the doormats into contenders would be landing Howard from the Magic.

The Nets reportedly have offered three players and three future NBA Draft first-round picks to the Magic for Howard, who has said he wants to leave Orlando and wants to end up with the Nets.



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NEW YORK- Cliff Lee finally has his first win of the season and the Philadelphia Phillies hit three late homers, breaking past the New York Mets 9-2 yesterday to stopping a six-game losing streak.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
YANKEES	48	32	.600	--
BALTIMORE	43	37	.537	5.0
TAMPA	43	38	.531	5.5
BOSTON	42	39	.519	6.5
TORONTO	41	40	.506	7.5

Central

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CHICAGO	43	37	.537	--
CLEVELAND	41	39	.512	2.0
DETROIT	39	42	.481	4.5
KANSAS	36	43	.456	6.5
MINNESOTA	35	45	.438	8.0

West

West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	50	31	.617	--
LA ANGELES	45	36	.556	5.0
OAKLAND	40	42	.488	10.5
SEATTLE	35	48	.422	16.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
WASHINGTON	47	32	.595	--
NY METS	44	38	.537	4.5
ATLANTA	42	38	.525	5.5
MIAMI	38	42	.475	9.5
PHILADELPHIA	37	46	.446	12.0

Central

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CINCINNATI	44	36	.550	--
PITTSBURG	44	36	.550	--
ST. LOUIS	42	39	.519	2.5
MILWAUKEE	38	42	.475	6.0
HOUSTON	32	49	.395	12.5
CHICAGO	30	50	.375	14.0

West

West	W	L	Pct	GB
LA DODGERS	45	37	.549	--
SAN FRANCISCO	45	37	.549	--
ARIZONA	39	41	.487	5.0
SAN DIEGO	32	50	.390	13.0
COLORADO	31	49	.388	13.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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De Villota loses eye in test accident

LONDON (AFP) - Spanish Formula One driver María De Villota has lost her right eye as a result of an accident she suffered during testing in England on Tuesday, her Marussia team said Wednesday.

De Villota was rushed to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge on Tuesday after a crash at Duxford Airfield circuit in Cambridgeshire, eastern England.

And a statement issued Wednesday by Marussia confirmed the extent of the 32-year-old's injuries, with team

principal John Booth saying: "It is with great sadness that I must report that, due to the injuries she sustained, María has lost her right eye."

De Villota's condition was described as "critical but stable", with Booth explaining: "María emerged from theatre at Addenbrooke's Hospital this (Wednesday) morning after a lengthy operation to address the serious head and facial injuries she received in the accident.

Spanish tennis great Rafael Nadal offered sympathy to De

Villota by saying, via Twitter, on Wednesday: "María I hope you recover soon, you must be strong and we hope to see you back as soon as possible."

His post followed several from within the world of Formula One on Tuesday.

Marussia said Tuesday that De Villota had been injured after her car collided with a support vehicle at the end of her first lap.

BBC radio presenter Chris Mann, who witnessed the crash, said "She got into the car, fired it up and did a test

run at probably about 200mph in the rain," he said. "She slowed down but then suddenly, inexplicably accelerated through the crowd and smashed into the side of the truck."

De Villota, the daughter of former Spanish Formula One driver Emilio De Villota, was given a test drive by Renault last year and had previously raced in Spanish Formula Three and the Daytona 24 Hours.

Women drivers remain a rarity in Formula One.

Djokovic, Federer book semi-final showdown

LONDON (AFP) - Defending champion Novak Djokovic and six-time winner Roger Federer face a titanic Wimbledon semi-final showdown after the two title contenders wasted little time on their last eight matches on Wednesday.

While third seed Federer pummelled Russian 26th seed Mikhail Youzhny into submission in a 90-minute 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 masterclass on Centre Court, Djokovic also took the express route against German 31st seed Florian Mayer, recording an emphatic 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 victory on Court One.

Friday's other semi-final between home favourite Andy Murray and French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga will produce a first-time Wimbledon finalist.

Djokovic will attempt to reach his second successive Wimbledon final by extending his current winning streak against Federer to four matches in their first ever encounter at the All England Club.

The world number one has proved a thorn in Federer's side of late, beating him in the semi-finals of the US and French Opens, although the Swiss great holds 14-12 edge over their 26 career meetings.

While Djokovic has every reason to feel confident, Federer, who has now reached a record 32 Grand Slam semi-finals, looked in peak form as he delivered a royal command performance in front of Prince William and Catherine.

Federer, who is without a Grand Slam title since the 2010 Australian Open, cruised to a 14th win in 14 meetings against Youzhny and, just as importantly for the 30-year-old, there were no signs of the back pain which had dogged him in the fourth round against Xavier Malisse.

Federer, chasing Pete Sampras's record of seven Wimbledon titles, also put an end to a worrying sequence at the All England Club where he had been knocked out in the quarter-finals in the last two years.

The most gripping of the four quarter-finals saw world number four Murray reach his fourth successive semi-final with a 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Spain's David Ferrer on Centre Court.

Murray, hoping to end Britain's 76-year wait for a male singles champion at Wimbledon, is now just one win away from becoming the first British man to reach the All England Club final since Bunny Austin in 1938.